

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-35. (cancelled without prejudice)

36. (currently amended) An orthopedic implant, comprising:

a base member having a lower surface, an upper surface, and at least one aperture;

a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being adjacent said base member in one of an infinite number of positions wherein said opening communicates with one of said apertures of said base member;

The implant of claim 35, further comprising at least one additional second stabilizer each having an opening therethrough, said at least one additional second stabilizer further having at least one lateral finger abutting said base member, wherein said at least one additional second stabilizer is in one of an infinite number of positions such that said opening of said at least one additional second stabilizer communicates with an aperture of said base member;

a fixation member having a first portion for attachment to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said fixation member extending through said stabilizer and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts said stabilizer;

a washer having a rounded top, said washer being around said second threaded part of said fixation member; and

a nut threaded onto said second threaded part of said fixation member, whereby said fixation member, said stabilizer and said base member can be locked relative to each other.

37. (currently amended) The implant of claim 36, further comprising at least one additional fixation member each having a first portion for fixing to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said at least one additional fixation member extending through a corresponding one of said at least one additional stabilizers and said longitudinal base member so that said enlarged portion contacts a portion of said corresponding stabilizer.

38. (currently amended) The implant of claim 35 36, wherein said nut includes a break-off portion that is severed when a torque exceeding a predetermined amount is applied to said break-off portion.

39. (currently amended) An orthopedic implant, comprising:
a base member having a lower surface, an upper surface, and at least one aperture;
a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being adjacent said base member in one of
an infinite number of positions wherein said opening communicates with one of said apertures of
said base member, The implant of claim 35, wherein at least a portion of said stabilizer is being
between said upper and lower surfaces of said base member;

a fixation member having a first portion for attachment to a bone, a second threaded
portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said fixation member extending
through said stabilizer and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts said
stabilizer;

a washer having a rounded top, said washer being around said second threaded part of
said fixation member; and

a nut threaded onto said second threaded part of said fixation member, whereby said fixation member, said stabilizer and said base member can be locked relative to each other.

40-68. (cancelled without prejudice)

69. (previously presented) An orthopedic implant, comprising:

a base member having a lower surface, an upper surface, and at least one aperture;

a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being adjacent said base member in one of an infinite number of positions wherein said opening communicates with one of said apertures of said base member;

a fixation member having a first portion for attachment to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said fixation member extending through said stabilizer and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts said stabilizer within said opening;

a washer having a rounded top, said washer being around said second threaded part of said fixation member; and

a nut threaded onto said second threaded part of said fixation member, whereby said fixation member, said stabilizer and said base member can be locked relative to each other.

70. (previously presented) The implant of claim 69, further comprising at least one additional stabilizer each having an opening therethrough, said at least one additional stabilizer further having at least one lateral finger abutting said base member, wherein said at least one

additional stabilizer is in one of an infinite number of positions such that said opening of said at least one additional stabilizer communicates with an aperture of said base member.

71. (previously presented) The implant of claim 70, further comprising at least one additional fixation member each having a first portion for fixing to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said at least one additional fixation member extending through a corresponding one of said at least one additional stabilizers and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts a portion of said corresponding stabilizer.

72. (previously presented) The implant of claim 69, wherein said nut includes a break-off portion that is severed when a torque exceeding a predetermined amount is applied to said break-off portion.

73. (previously presented) The implant of claim 69, wherein at least a portion of said stabilizer is between said upper and lower surfaces of said base member.

74. (cancelled without prejudice)

75. (currently amended) An orthopedic implant, comprising:
a base member having a lower surface, an upper surface, and at least one aperture;
a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being adjacent said base member in one of
an infinite number of positions wherein said opening communicates with one of said apertures of
said base member;

~~The implant of claim 74, further comprising~~ at least one additional second stabilizer each having an opening therethrough, said at least one additional second stabilizer further having at least one lateral finger abutting said base member, wherein said at least one additional second stabilizer is in one of an infinite number of positions such that said opening of said at least one additional second stabilizer communicates with an aperture of said base member;

a fixation member having a first portion for attachment to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate rounded diametrically enlarged portion, said fixation member extending through said stabilizer and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts said stabilizer;

a washer having a rounded top, said washer being around said second threaded part of said fixation member; and

a nut threaded onto said second threaded part of said fixation member, whereby said fixation member, said stabilizer and said base member can be locked relative to each other.

76. (previously presented) The implant of claim 75, further comprising at least one additional fixation member each having a first portion for fixing to a bone, a second threaded portion, and an intermediate diametrically enlarged portion, said at least one additional fixation member extending through a corresponding one of said at least one additional stabilizers and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts a portion of said corresponding stabilizer.

77. (currently amended) The implant of claim ~~74~~ 75, wherein said nut includes a break-off portion that is severed when a torque exceeding a predetermined amount is applied to said break-off portion.

78. (new) An orthopedic implant, comprising:
a base member having a lower surface, an upper surface, and at least one aperture;
a stabilizer having an opening, said stabilizer being adjacent said base member in one of
an infinite number of positions wherein said opening communicates with one of said apertures of
said base member, The implant of claim 74, wherein at least a portion of said stabilizer is being
between said upper and lower surfaces of said base member;
a fixation member having a first portion for attachment to a bone, a second threaded
portion, and an intermediate rounded diametrically enlarged portion, said fixation member
extending through said stabilizer and said base member so that said enlarged portion contacts
said stabilizer;
a washer having a rounded top, said washer being around said second threaded part of
said fixation member; and
a nut threaded onto said second threaded part of said fixation member, whereby said
fixation member, said stabilizer and said base member can be locked relative to each other.

79. (new) The implant of claim 39, wherein said opening in said stabilizer in said stabilizer has a longitudinal axis, and said stabilizer substantially forms a parallelogram in a plane substantially perpendicular to said axis.

80. (new) The implant of claim 79, wherein said stabilizer substantially forms a square in a plane substantially perpendicular to said axis.

81. (new) The implant of claim 39, wherein said washer has a bottom surface that includes a projection extending substantially perpendicularly from said bottom surface.

82. (new) The implant of claim 39, wherein said washer includes a hole therethrough bounded by a wall having a conical portion.

83. (new) The implant of claim 39, wherein said washer includes a flange portion having a C-clip attached thereto.

84. (new) The implant of claim 39, wherein said first portion for attachment to a bone of said fixation member includes threads.

85. (new) The implant of claim 84, wherein said threads of said first portion has a root diameter that increases toward said intermediate diametrically enlarged portion so that at least a portion of said intermediate diametrically enlarged portion is substantially a continuation of said root diameter.

86. (new) The implant of claim 69, wherein said opening in said stabilizer in said stabilizer has a longitudinal axis, and said stabilizer substantially forms a parallelogram in a plane substantially perpendicular to said axis.

87. (new) The implant of claim 86, wherein said stabilizer substantially forms a square in a plane substantially perpendicular to said axis.

88. (new) The implant of claim 69, wherein said washer has a bottom surface that includes a projection extending substantially perpendicularly from said bottom surface.

89. (new) The implant of claim 69, wherein said washer includes a hole therethrough bounded by a wall having a conical portion.

90. (new) The implant of claim 69, wherein said washer includes a flange portion having a C-clip attached thereto.

91. (new) The implant of claim 69, wherein said first portion for attachment to a bone of said fixation member includes threads.

92. (new) The implant of claim 91, wherein said threads of said first portion has a root diameter that increases toward said intermediate diametrically enlarged portion so that at least a portion of said intermediate diametrically enlarged portion is substantially a continuation of said root diameter.

93. (new) The implant of claim 36, wherein said opening in said stabilizer in said stabilizer has a longitudinal axis, and said stabilizer substantially forms a parallelogram in a plane substantially perpendicular to said axis.

94. (new) The implant of claim 93, wherein said stabilizer substantially forms a square in a plane substantially perpendicular to said axis.

95. (new) The implant of claim 36, wherein said washer has a bottom surface that includes a projection extending substantially perpendicularly from said bottom surface.

96. (new) The implant of claim 36, wherein said washer includes a hole therethrough bounded by a wall having a conical portion.

97. (new) The implant of claim 36, wherein said washer includes a flange portion having a C-clip attached thereto.

98. (new) The implant of claim 36, wherein said first portion for attachment to a bone of said fixation member includes threads.

99. (new) The implant of claim 98, wherein said threads of said first portion has a root diameter that increases toward said intermediate diametrically enlarged portion so that at least a portion of said intermediate diametrically enlarged portion is substantially a continuation of said root diameter.